

IN THE CLAIMS

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) An isolated and purified polynucleotide encoding a PLD from a *Neisseria* bacterium.

8. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 7, wherein the polynucleotide comprises nucleic acid sequence SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19 or SEQ ID NO:32.

9. (Original) An isolated and purified polypeptide encoded by nucleic acid sequence SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19 or SEQ ID NO:32.

10. (Original) An isolated and purified polypeptide comprising phospholipase D from a *Neisseria* bacterium.

11. (Original) The polypeptide of claim 10, wherein the polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:20.

12. (Currently amended) A vaccine comprising an immunogenic amount of the polypeptide of claim 10 ~~a PLD polypeptide from *Neisseria*~~, which amount is effective to immunize a patient against a neisserial infection, in combination with a physiologically-acceptable, non-toxic vehicle.

13. (Currently amended) The vaccine of claim 12 ~~19~~, which further comprises an effective amount of an immunological adjuvant.

14. (Currently amended) The vaccine of claim 12 ~~19~~, wherein the polypeptide is conjugated or linked to a second peptide.

15. (Currently amended) The vaccine of claim 12 ~~19~~, wherein the polypeptide is conjugated or linked to a polysaccharide.

16. (Currently amended) The vaccine of claim 12 ~~19~~, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19 or SEQ ID NO:32.

17. (Currently amended) A method of protecting a patient against *Neisseria* colonization or infection comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a vaccine comprising an immunogenic amount of the polypeptide of claim 10 ~~a PLD polypeptide from *Neisseria*~~, which amount is effective to immunize a susceptible patient against a neisserial infection, in combination with a physiologically-acceptable, non-toxic vehicle.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 ~~15~~, which further comprises an effective amount of an immunological adjuvant.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 ~~15~~, wherein the polypeptide is conjugated or linked to a second peptide.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 ~~15~~, wherein the polypeptide is conjugated or linked to a polysaccharide.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 ~~15~~, wherein the vaccine is administered orally, mucosally or by subcutaneous or intramuscular injection.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 ~~15~~, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19 or SEQ ID NO:32.

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Serial No. : 10/665,990
Filed : September 19, 2003
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Attorney's Docket No.: 17023.031US1 / 01025

23-24. (Canceled)

- 25. (New) The polypeptide of claim 10 that is conjugated or linked to a second peptide.
- 26. (New) The polypeptide of claim 10 that is conjugated or linked to a polysaccharide.
- 27. (New) An isolated and purified polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 10.
- 28. (New) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 10 and a pharmaceutically-acceptable vehicle.